

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 13

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day One) *War: Physical and Spiritual*

In Lesson 12, *The Leader's Fire of Holiness*, we studied and practiced the art of being holy. Jesus makes us holy but God still requires effort on our part. Our efforts should be directed towards depending on and following Jesus. Through God's grace, we do have the ability to pursue and live in holiness.

Read Hebrews 2:11-12 and answer questions 1-2:

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." Hebrews 2:11-12

1. Why is Jesus not ashamed to call *you* a brother or sister (v. 11)?

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**
When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may also pass it on to another or discard.

2. What thoughts go through your mind as you read verse 12?

Read Hebrews 2:13-15 and answer questions 3-5:

And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil--¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:13-15

3. What is another term Jesus applies to Christians who belong in His family (v.13)?

4. How did Jesus share in our humanity (human race) (v. 14)?

5. Who destroyed the devil's power of death?

Believers are considered brothers and sisters to Jesus and God's children. The point the author of Hebrews is making is that we are part of God's family. We belong! We are part of God's holy family because of His plan in sending His Son to earth.

Being part of God's family automatically puts us into a state of war with the devil and his forces. The more you seek holiness and pleasing your eternal family, the greater your opposition. Even

though the enemy has no real power over believers, he can cause trouble. I think theologian and English Puritan John Owen (1616-1663) was correct when he said:

"There is no duty we perform for God that sin does not oppose and the more spirituality or holiness there is in what we do, the greater the enmity (hostility) to it. Thus those who seek the most for God experience the strongest opposition."

Definition: War is a state of open and armed conflict carried on between nations, states or other parties. It is a concentrated effort or campaign to put an end to something considered harmful. A battle is an encounter or skirmish (fight) between the opposing forces.

World War II (1939-1945) began with Germany's invasion of Poland. It was the deadliest war that our world has experienced thus far. Over 100 million military personnel were mobilized across continents and over 70 million people died. The majority of the dead were civilians.

The forces or nations were divided into two opposing groups, the Allies and the Axis. For example, the United States joined with the Allies, and Germany was part of the Axis group. They fought against each other in numerous battles and in different countries. There was one war, but many battles.

World War II was a physical war; it took place in time and space. However, WWII and all physical wars are really being waged in the spiritual realm. This is a sphere or dominion that lacks material substance; it is not limited by time and space as we know it. The spiritual war that affects nations and individuals is being waged between the forces of God and the forces of Satan.

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
Revelation 20:10

6. Read Revelation 20:10. In the future, what happens to Satan (devil) and his leaders?

God has already won the war. Jesus Christ defeated the devil when He died on the cross for the sins of the world. Satan's future is sealed. In spiritual warfare, it is critical to remember that we are fighting against a beaten enemy. However, God allows him to do battle and fight until his time on earth is over. Therefore, as a Christian leader you will encounter many battles against the devil's forces during your lifetime. You may be involved on an individual level, a national or even international level, but be on guard: lives are at stake.

7. What is the longest length of time that a physical war may affect *your* life? _____

8. How long will a person's life be affected if they choose the wrong side in the spiritual war?

Even if a person grew up in a war torn country, the longest time the physical war could affect him would be his individual life span. The average life expectancy for women is 81 and for men 76. Then it is over. Death will take a person out of a physical war. However the spiritual war has ramifications for eternity. The outcome for choosing the devil's side is eternal suffering.

We cannot see God or anything else that is occurring in the spiritual world unless He allows it. For example, about 850 B.C. the king of Aram was at war with Israel. In order to help Israel, God would tell His prophet Elisha the king's battle plans. Elisha would then go and tell the king of Israel so that the Israelites were always prepared for battle. The king of Aram learned of the prophet's ability to warn his enemy Israel and immediately sent men to capture him.

Read 2 Kings 6:15-17 and answer questions 9-11:

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked.¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17

- 9. What did Elisha's servant see in the physical realm when he got up in the morning (v. 15)?
- 10. What did Elisha pray for his servant (v. 17a)?
- 11. What was the spiritual reality of the battle Elisha and his servant were facing (v. 17b)?

Elisha was operating from a deep, spiritual awareness and intensity. God allowed him to see what was going on in the spiritual realm so that he was not afraid of the physical army that was coming to his door. God had spiritual forces surrounding and protecting Elisha and his servant.

The spiritual war is between the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. You are a soldier in Christ, a warrior engaged in this epic war. The powers of darkness have a primary mission of thwarting God's purposes on earth for nations, groups and individuals. Yes, there are spiritual beings that will cause you problems. They want to keep you from being an effective Christian leader and advancing the Kingdom of Light, God's empire. The members of this dark world work hard to prevent non-believers from placing their faith in Christ and becoming soldiers and carriers of His light.

Personal Application: Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:12:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

- 12. Is your struggle against another person who has hurt you, either physically or emotionally?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
- 13. Who are you really fighting against?
- 14. How will this change the way you view other people and circumstances?

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Two) The Enemy

It appears from Ephesians 6:12 that the kingdom of darkness has set up a hierarchy (chain of command) with territories to make sure that the earth is blanketed with deadly pressure and influence. Who is ruling the dark world and rallying the troops against us? Who is this archenemy that is responsible for so much evil?

Although he goes by several names, he is most commonly called Satan or Devil. The name Satan is the English transliteration¹ of the Hebrew word *satan* (שָׂטָן). The Hebrew word means adversary, opponent or accuser. The Greek word *diabolos* (διάβολος) is translated devil in English. It also means accuser and slanderer. A slanderer makes false and damaging statements.

Satan is a real spiritual being who blames God's people for wrongdoing and maliciously lies about us to God. He opposes us in battle. He is our enemy and a most cruel opponent.

Satan's origins are not completely evident in the Scriptures. In the fourth century, Augustine of Hippo proposed that Satan was originally created good, like all the other angels. However, he wanted to be like God with supreme authority and rebelled out of pride. This is how evil entered the world. He caused other angels to rebel also.²

There are two passages of Scripture that support Augustine's proposal: Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-17. The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel are referring to the earthly kings of Babylon and Tyre, but there are elements about the kings that are not literally true. In addition, the wording and description encompass a much more powerful individual. Many scholars have agreed with Augustine and believe these passages are referring to both earthly kings and Satan.

Scripture tells us that Satan has angels in his army (Matthew 25:41). Like humans, angels were also given "free will" and some chose to sin against God (2 Peter 2:4). From Scripture, it appears that some fallen angels are held for judgment while others are in our midst. You or other Christians may not be tempted by Satan himself, for he is not omnipresent, but you can be assured some wicked, spiritual being is opposing your devotion to the Lord.

Definition: Rebellion is open, armed, and organized resistance to a government (political system); it is also an act or a show of defiance toward an authority or established convention. Authority is the power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge.

God is the Supreme Ruler, Authority and Judge. Satan rebelled against God and His command. He was not willing to serve under God's rightful rule and authority. His rebellion was the start of the war between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom.

Read Genesis 3:1 and answer questions 15-16:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Genesis 3:1

¹ Transliterate means to represent by letters in one's language that of another language with a different alphabet.

² McGrath, Alister. Christian Theology An Introduction. Blackwell Publishing, University of Oxford, 2001.

15. Who disguised himself as a serpent (Revelation 12:9)?
16. What do you think Satan's hidden agenda was in talking with Eve?
17. What is Satan's agenda (plan) regarding *you* (1 Peter 5:8)?

Satan is an aggressor (attacker). He went on the offensive (attack) when man was created. He went into the garden with the explicit intention of getting the man and the woman to rebel against God and defy (go against) His authority. The devil won that first battle against us and continues to assail with vicious and brutal intensity.

Satan is a dangerous enemy and Christian leaders should not underestimate his military aptitude. He uses subtle and deceptive means to provoke rebellion. However, his tactics to incite rebellion will fail if we keep our warrior's eye on Jesus and rightly estimate *His* power and authority.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. Colossians 1:15-16

18. Jesus is the image of the invisible God! According to Colossians 1:15-16 how did all things, including a powerful being like Satan, come to exist?

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. Job 1:12

19. Read Job 1:12. Who has authority and control over Satan?

Satan is a created being and his activities are limited by God. He has been judged by God for his pride (conceit, arrogance) and rebellion but has not yet received his full punishment (1 Timothy 3:6; Revelation 20:10). Satan continues to tempt mankind to follow his way of pride. God could just remove the devil and his evil cohorts (allies) from our lives and He will, however it will be in His plan and timing. In the meantime He uses the devil's schemes to test our own hearts and motivations (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

20. Why do you think God allows Satan to be the "prince of the world" (John 16:11; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 John 5:19)?

The Bible does not tell us specifically why God allows Satan certain privileges of authority on this earth, but we do know that God uses Satan to test our hearts and faithfulness. We also know that God created Adam and Eve and put them in charge of the world. The enemy entered and won this first battle by tempting them to disobey the Supreme Commander. They chose Satan over God and lost dominion of the world to him. The same is true for mankind today. Those who choose Satan over God are under his rule and bondage. Satan's effect on the world has been devastating to its inhabitants, bringing us war, disease, pain and death.

Read Habakkuk 1:13 and answer questions 21-22:

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? Habakkuk 1:13

21. Summarize in your own words what the prophet Habakkuk is asking God?

22. Why do you think God allows evil and suffering in the world?

"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright-- but the righteous will live by his faith--
Habakkuk 2:4 (Puffed up - inflated with self-importance; heedless)

23. How does God answer in Habakkuk 2:4?

God says that in contrast to the prideful and unrighteous, *the righteous will live by his faith*. By faith we know that God is good and created a good world. By faith we know God is pure and holy. By faith we trust God in allowing evil to exist at the present time, knowing its end will come at the proper time. By faith we know that God is in charge of how our world runs and we are not.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said:² "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.⁴ "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.
Job 38:1-4

24. According to Job 38:1-4, could a mere human possibly understand the design and workings of the universe that God has created? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

We may never totally understand why Satan has power and why evil exists. But we do know that Christ won the victory over sin at the cross (Colossians 2:15) and that the devil's time is short. Satan stands judged and condemned (1 Timothy 3:6). He will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur and tormented day and night for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10). The wicked will also be sent to hell (Matthew 23:33) and the righteous in Christ sent to everlasting life (Matthew 19:29). In the end God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 7:17, 21:4). We live by faith in God's purpose and plan for our earth and its people.

Although the pain and suffering that we and others experience is difficult, the duration is nothing compared to the joy that awaits us for eternity. God is just and will work out everything for our eternal good (Romans 8:28-29). He has a perfect plan that does not call for Satan's rule to end until sometime in the future. Until then, for as long as we live, we must fight this archenemy in battle after battle, claiming the complete victory that our Savior has won.

Personal Application:

25. God trains us in battle against Satan. Meditate on and memorize Psalm 18:34-35:

He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.³⁵ You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. Psalm 18:34-35

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Three) Evil Tactics

Now that we have identified the leader of the enemy forces, let us take a look at some of his tactics. That is, what are his methods for reaching his goal? Remember that the devil's goal is to thwart God's purposes and usurp (seize) His authority.

Read John 8:44 and answer questions 26-28:

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

26. Jesus told some of the Pharisees and Jews that they were carrying out their father's desire. Who does Jesus say their father is?

27. Name one of Satan's characteristics:

The devil wanted to stop Jesus and His disciples. Although most of the religious leaders had come to believe Satan's lies, there were many who were repenting and following Jesus. God was making an impact. Satan was working as hard as he could to make Jesus' mission fail.

Personally, I do not think Satan knew God's plan of redemption. He knew Jesus was God's Son, but did he know Jesus would die for our sins? If he did, he would have been trying to keep Jesus away from the cross rather than inciting Judas to betray Him. After all, the cross meant his total defeat. Perhaps, like the Jews, he thought the Messiah would set up an earthly Kingdom.

28. How do you suppose Satan *was a murderer from the beginning* (Genesis 3:1-24)?

Satan was the cause of Adam and Eve's physical death (Hebrews 2:14-15). It did not come about immediately but as soon as they took the devil's bait and ate the forbidden fruit, their bodies started to age. They were sent from the Garden of Eden into a now decaying world.

Most likely the devil felt he had thwarted God's purpose for mankind in the Garden by causing open rebellion. But God had a redemption plan (Genesis 3:15) that would give humans an opportunity to be restored and to be with Him forever. God's plan rested in sending His Son into the world to die for our sins (John 3:16). His plan calls for trust and obedience in His Son, Jesus.

Definition: Tactics is defined as the science of organizing and maneuvering forces in battle to achieve a limited or immediate goal. It is also the art of finding and implementing the means to achieve immediate or short-term goals.

Simply, *military tactics* is a plan against one's foe. Let us look at some of Satan's tactics so that we are not unaware of his schemes. Then we will look at God's tactics for us.

Enemy Tactic # 1: Lies, Lies and more Lies

Just like Satan lied to Eve in the Garden, he continues to lie to us and those who would serve God. He spoke words that he knew were not true. Since that time he continually and deliberately tries to get people to believe things that are not correct. He is the great Deceiver (swindler, fraud,

con artist). He does not want anyone to trust God and His Word because the truth sets captives free from His deadly grip.

Satan spoke his lies directly to Eve in the Garden and he spoke lies directly to Jesus in the desert (Luke 4:7-8). Exactly how he speaks his lies to us is not exactly clear. But Scripture clearly reveals he has some kind of power to bring his lies to hearts and minds.

Read Acts 5:3 and answer questions 29-30:

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?" Acts 5:3

29. What does Peter tell Ananias?

Satan was behind the first recorded sin in the church and so filled Ananias' heart that he lied. Maybe the enemy can speak to minds inaudibly and, like radio waves, the subconscious detects the thought. Again, we do not know exactly how Satan fills hearts or tempts, but clearly he does.

In the same way Satan, or one of his demons will fill your heart with lies about yourself. You are no good. No one likes you. God does not love you. You are depressed. You will never be happy. You are a failure. You are ugly. There is no hope. Nothing will ever change. Sound familiar. They are all lies. This is not the truth of who God says that you are.

Do we believe such lies? Certainly we do. This is an effective tool in Satan's arsenal (weapons storehouse). It keeps us distancing ourselves from God and makes us weak and ineffective in battle.

30. How do *you* recognize Satan's lies?

When Ananias' had the thought of keeping back some money for himself but telling the church that he was giving it all to them, he should have recognized Satan's signature tactic. He should have said, "Wait a second, what am I thinking? That would be a lie. I belong to God and I don't lie." The devil would have been defeated right then and there.

In the same way, when you start feeling badly about yourself, you need to look to God's Word (Jeremiah 29:11-13, 31:3; Romans 8:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20). Concentrate on who you are in Christ Jesus; do not listen to demon lies. God loves you and you are wonderful in His eyes.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Definitions: Submit means be subject to, obey, be under the authority of; take a subordinate place. Resist means to oppose, withstand; hold one's ground. Both words, submit and resist, in James 4:7 are imperatives (commands).

Read James 4:7 and answer questions 31-32:

31. How do you counterattack (return attack) the devil and his army of demons?

32. What does it mean to resist the devil and how do *you* personally resist evil?

Our triune God is the King and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of Light. We willingly place ourselves under His authority and rule. We are subject to Him and obey His command.

Anything that goes against God's truth is a lie. We resist or oppose such deceit with the truth of His Word, the Bible. When we hold our ground and do not give in, the evil one must take flight.

Enemy Tactic #2 Using Others with Wicked Intent

Read Matthew 16:23 and answer questions 33-34:

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23

Definition: A stumbling block is an obstacle, something that stands in the way of achieving a goal or of understanding something.

33. How was Peter being a stumbling block to Jesus (Matthew 16:21-22)?

34. How has someone been a stumbling block to you?

On the surface it seemed that Peter was being lovingly protective of Jesus; he certainly did not want His friend and Lord to be placed in harm's way. However, Jesus saw through the sentimental emotion for what it was. Peter did not have his eyes fixed upon God but on his earthly relationships and comforts.

Satan will try to influence you through others and vice versa (others through you). Perhaps you feel God calling you to a mission or task and you share this news with a parent, relative or friend. He says, "Don't go on that mission; it's much too dangerous. There are other ways to serve God." Again, it seems so caring, but is it? Trying to keep someone out of God's will is one of the least loving things we can do.

There are many ways that others can adversely affect the calling on your life, even though they may not realize it. But now that you understand the devil's tactic of using others with wicked intent, be on guard. As a leader you must weigh what people say very carefully. Is this God speaking or is it the enemy? Of course the person is not your enemy but is unwittingly (unknowing) being used for the purpose of ruining God's plan.

Enemy Tactic #3 Unforgiveness

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-- if there was anything to forgive-- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (outwit - outsmart)

35. Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. What tactic of Satan is the apostle Paul warning against?

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."
Matthew 18:33-35

36. Read Matthew 18:33-35. How deeply are we supposed to forgive others?

Jesus tells us that we must forgive from our heart. We must really pardon our offenders from our spirit. That is, we hold no grudges or thoughts of revenge. We do not withhold love or affection from the person nor do we withhold kind and responsible actions toward him or her.

Make no mistake, this is spiritual warfare. Satan knows that if we harbor unforgiveness in our hearts, we will be out of God's will. The devil will give us plenty of reasons why our thoughts do not matter as long as we pretend to forgive by our outward actions.

Understanding that Satan can be the force behind the offender and your own self-righteous feelings will help you outsmart him. You outwit the devil by forgiving others from your heart. Whenever it gets difficult, think of Jesus on the cross and his prayer for the Father to forgive them (Luke 23:34).

In concentrating on the devil's tactics, do not miss the heavenly Father's reaction to the sin of unforgiveness. He has forgiven us for innumerable sins and continues to do so. Therefore He expects us to react the same towards our fellow humans. If we do not forgive, we will be under the righteous anger of Almighty God.

Enemy Tactic # 4 Takes away the Word

Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Mark 4:15

37. According to Mark 4:15, when the gospel is preached and those who are lost hear it, what can Satan do?

In some fashion Satan can take away the words of the gospel. Exactly how Satan does this is unclear. He may cause the heart to be distracted or hindered in some way through persecution, ridicule, busyness or even prosperity. We need to be vigilant (watchful) and pray for new believers to be rooted in the Lord Jesus and to stand firm against the wiles (tricks) of the devil.

Personal Application:

War Zone We all live within the spiritual combat area between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom. Everyone is subject to attack. We looked at some of the devil's tactics so that as a leader you are not unaware of his schemes and can take appropriate action.

Read through the following verses and list Satan's form of attack:

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 1 Chronicles 21:1
(Incite - to stir up feelings in or provoke action by somebody; census - count of a population)

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.
2 Corinthians 11:13

For we wanted to come to you-- certainly I, Paul, did, again and again-- but Satan stopped us.
1 Thessalonians 2:18

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

- 38. (1. 1 Chronicles 21:1 _____)
- (2. 2 Corinthians 11:13 _____)
- (3. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 _____)
- (4. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 _____)

39. How does understanding some of the enemy's ways and tactics prepare you for battle?

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Four) Wisdom, Courage and Strength in Warfare

Knowing the enemy is important in order to recognize when and how he will attack, but even more important is knowing our own tactics in fighting our foe. All of our tactics in warfare center in and on God.

Fearing the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10) and carries us forward in becoming skilled in spiritual warfare. War calls for wise, courageous and strong leaders. Notice wisdom comes before strength; we must be wise in order to use power correctly and effectively.

Godly Tactic #1 Wisdom in Warfare

Read Proverbs 8:12-14 and answer questions 40-45:

"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.¹³ To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.¹⁴ Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. Proverbs 8:12-14

40. When a person has wisdom, what three other characteristics will he or she possess (v. 12)?
(1. _____) (2. _____) (3. _____)

Three characteristics of having wisdom are prudence, knowledge and discretion. Jesus was wise and displayed all three traits in His earthly ministry. Let us look a little closer at the meanings of these three characteristics.

First, those in command should think strategically or deliberately. They do not act rashly and run into battle without any foresight. A wise commander acts carefully, **prudently**. This is not to say that a leader does not act quickly when necessary.

Second, those in God's Kingdom must possess **knowledge** of God and the world around them. Christian leaders must have information to act and proceed in a wise manner. This would include knowing *Military Science* (principles of military conflict and warfare), as it relates to spiritual warfare. The Bible is the handbook for *Spiritual Military Science*.

Third, a wise manner calls for good judgment. One needs to think out a plan and act upon it. This is what is meant by **discretion**. It can also mean showing caution in behavior. For example, Jesus acted cautiously and did not allow Himself to be taken until it was His time to die.

41. To _____ the LORD is to _____ evil (v. 13).

We do not embrace evil, sin or wickedness. We detest all acts and works against God. However, we are not free to hate our physical enemies. They are captives of the evil one and we pray that one day they will be freed to serve the Lord.

Recall Jesus had a plan and a purpose for being among sinners and never veered (changed) from it. He was not among them to be one of the gang but to bring them the words of God. Each sinner had a choice, he either accepted God's way or went away like the rich man in Matthew 16:19-24.

42. If Jesus had compromised on Kingdom principles, what kind of disciples would He have attracted?

43. What are some ways that you can witness and befriend sinners without condoning or giving the impression that you approve of their evil behavior?

44. What kinds of behavior does God hate (v. 13b)?

God hates pride, arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. These are part of Satan's repertoire (catalog). Do not fall into the devil's clever traps in regard to these sins. For example, the sin of pride could have you judging sinners and forgetting that you, too, are saved by grace.

45. What are four other characteristics of wisdom and of a wise leader (v. 14)?

(1. Counsel and (2. _____) (3. Understanding and (4. _____)

As others recognize that God is with you, they will seek your advice. Or you may need to give advice or instruction even when not sought. This is known as wise **counsel**. Take time to listen to the person carefully and make sure that you fully understand their problem or dilemma. In the same way, as you deal with counseling groups or larger numbers of people, make sure that you observe, listen and understand what the real issue or battle is and how to proceed.

As you carefully observe and listen, you will discover the truth of the situation. Just think about being a captain on a physical battlefield. Would you tell your troops to advance without finding

out what lies ahead? No, you would seek as much information as you could in order to make a **sound judgment** as to your next move. Life and death hang in the balance.

Assessing (reviewing, evaluating) information calls for **understanding**. The wise leader needs insight to know how to read signs and how to give the right advice to make right decisions. You need the right way of thinking that comes from a steady and faithful reliance on God.

As you pray intelligent and accurate prayers, God will give you the strength and **power** to lead with wisdom and success. Power is used in the sense of the might of God. He has the unlimited capacity to control and influence all things and all people. Almighty God delights to use His power and answer prayers that make sense in His will. He does not delight to answer foolish prayers that lack wisdom.

Godly Tactic #2 Courage in Warfare

In 486-465 B.C., King Xerxes of Persia ruled over a remnant of Jewish people who had been taken into captivity. Recall the Jews were God's people and it was through Abraham that all the nations would be blessed. In other words, the Messiah would be born through this people.

Satan had no problem seeing that God had a plan for the Jewish people. Satan had seen the powerful miracles God had done on their behalf and also that they were the only ones who knew how to worship Him correctly. Satan and his followers are always looking to thwart God's plans. They thought they found a way in Haman, an evil man, with a plan to kill all the Jews.

At the time Esther, a young Jewish woman, was Queen of Persia. She learned of the plot to kill her people and knew that the king could intervene, however the king had not called her into his presence for a month. Now the queen did not have the authority that one might think. No one, not even the queen, could walk into the king's presence unless summoned.

Using wisdom she came up with a plan, one that called for courage. She had to first show up in the king's inner court and seek an audience with him. Any man or woman, including the Queen, could be put to death by seeking such a meeting without first being summoned.

With the threat of death, Esther declares her famous words, "I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16). Bravely and courageously she carries out the plan to save her people. Praise God, who gave her the courage and success.

We all admire brave, valiant, and noble men and women who overcome frightful circumstances for a greater good. In spiritual warfare, you must be that brave and courageous leader with the ability to control your fear even when facing extreme danger. **Satan tries to make us afraid to do right.** You must remember that no matter how formidable your satanic foe, God is stronger.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Read Joshua 1:9 and answer questions 46-47:

46. Does God **command** leaders to be strong and courageous? Yes No (Circle One)

47. What is the reason God gives for being strong and courageous?

Read Isaiah 41:10 and answer questions 48-50:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

48. Why does God say "do not fear"?

49. Why does God say "do not be dismayed" (lose courage)?

50. How does this knowledge of God being with you comfort and encourage you?

Godly Tactic #3 Strength in Warfare

When Joshua took over leadership from Moses, God commanded him to be strong and courageous. God commanded him three times (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9) to be strong. He did not mean that Joshua was supposed to take up physical training and build up his muscles to be a strong man. Although getting and staying in good physical shape is beneficial, God has something different in mind.

Right after telling Joshua to be strong, God tells him to be very careful to obey the law and not let it depart from his mouth (v. 8). The new leader is to meditate on God's law day and night so that he will be careful to do everything written in it. God is using strong in the sense of having the power of resistance to evil.

God is saying you need to be strong so that you do not become broken or damaged in spirit. Joshua needed to be strong in God and in His ways or else he would be in danger of being captured by the enemy. The Israelites, the people Joshua was leading, would be crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land and they would be heavily engaged in warfare.

In the same way, we need strength in warfare to resist evil. We need to be strong so that our spirit is not in danger of being broken or damaged. We are leading people into the promised land of heaven and our enemy Satan and his forces will be engaging us in spiritual warfare.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3 and Philippians 4:13 and answer question 51:

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
2 Thessalonians 3:3

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

51. Are you a strong leader? Yes No (Circle One) Explain why or why not:

Personal Application:

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Revelation 3:2 (Jesus is speaking to Sardis, one of the seven churches in Asia. Today Sardis stands in ruins in the modern country of Turkey.)

52. Read Revelation 3:2. What is your responsibility in becoming wise, courageous and strong?

But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see. Deuteronomy 3:28

53. Read Deuteronomy 3:28. How can you strengthen others so that Jesus will find their deeds complete in the sight of God?

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Five) Authority in Advancing the Kingdom

Godly Tactic #4 Authority

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:18-20

Read Luke 10:18-20 answer questions 54-56:

54. What is authority and where does your authority come from (v.19)?

Authority is the right or ability to give orders. The person with authority has power to make others obey and the liberty to take specific actions. Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18) and He is our source of authority. In other words, we have delegated authority. That means that our rights to rule or govern the spiritual world or the physical world come directly from Christ.

55. What do snakes and scorpions represent (v.19)?

56. How do you overcome the power of Satan and his spirit forces?

Snakes and scorpions represent evil spirits. **In** Jesus you have the authority and power to win any battle against Satan and his crew of fallen angels and demons. In fact, as a Christian leader you have a grave responsibility to enforce Christ's victory in this epic War. However, remember two things: **One**, you must be abiding (living) in Christ and **Two**, you must exercise your authority through faith.

57. Are you satisfied with how you are exercising your authority in Christ Jesus?
Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

58. How will *you* improve in your exercise of authority (Hebrews 11:32-38)?

Other Warfare Scriptures

With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. Psalm 18:29

59. Read Psalm 18:29. How do you advance the Kingdom and destroy the troops of Satan?

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. Philippians 1:12

60. Read Philippians 1:12. Paul was put in prison and it appeared that Satan had won a battle. Yet what does Paul say?

Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. Philippians 1:14

61. Read Philippians 1:14. What was one result of Paul's being imprisoned and put in chains?

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17

62. In Ephesians 6:17, what is the sword of the Spirit?

The word of God is the sword of the Spirit. This is your weapon. Like a master swordsman, continually practice using your sword so that you may wield its full power.

Personal Application:

Ephesians 6:10-18 is one of the most popular passages on spiritual warfare. **Read and meditate on these verses and answer questions 63-64:**

63. The pieces of armor are described in terms of truth, righteousness, peace, salvation and the word of God. What Person is described in these terms?

64. How will you put on the armor of Christ (see also Romans 13:8-14)?

Remember: *“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4*

- End Lesson 13 -

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 13
CLI Christian Leadership Study: Spiritual Warfare

Name & Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day One) *War: Physical and Spiritual*

1. Why is Jesus not ashamed to call *you* a brother or sister (v. 11)? _____

2. What thoughts go through your mind as you read verse 12? _____

3. What is another term Jesus applies to Christians who belong in His family (v.13)? _____

4. How did Jesus share in our humanity (human race) (v. 14)? _____

5. Who destroyed the devil's power of death? _____

6. Read Revelation 20:10. In the future, what happens to Satan (devil) and his leaders?

7. What is the longest length of time that a physical war may affect *your* life? _____

8. How long will a person's life be affected if they choose the wrong side in the spiritual war?

9. What did Elisha's servant see in the physical realm when he got up in the morning (v. 15)?

10. What did Elisha pray for his servant (v. 17a)? _____

11. What was the spiritual reality of the battle Elisha and his servant were facing (v. 17b)?

Personal Application: Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:12:

12. Is your struggle against another person who has hurt you, either physically or emotionally?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

13. Who are you really fighting against? _____

14. How will this change the way you view other people and circumstances? _____

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Two) The Enemy

15. Who disguised himself as a serpent (Revelation 12:9)? _____

16. What do you think Satan’s hidden agenda was in talking with Eve? _____

17. What is Satan’s agenda (plan) regarding *you* (1 Peter 5:8)? _____

18. Jesus is the image of the invisible God! According to Colossians 1:15-16 how did all things, including a powerful being like Satan, come to exist? _____

19. Read Job 1:12. Who has authority and control over Satan? _____

20. Why do you think God allows Satan to be the “prince of the world” (John 16:11; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 John 5:19)? _____

21. Summarize in your own words what the prophet Habakkuk is asking God? _____

22. Why do you think God allows evil and suffering in the world? _____

23. How does God answer in Habakkuk 2:4? _____

24. According to Job 38:1-4, could a mere human possibly understand the design and workings of the universe that God has created? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

25. **Personal Application:** Write Psalm 18:34-35 from memory:

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Three) Evil Tactics

26. Jesus told some of the Pharisees and Jews that they were carrying out their father's desire.

Who does Jesus say their father is? _____

27. Name one of Satan's characteristics: _____

28. How do you suppose Satan was a murderer from the beginning (Genesis 3:1-24)?

29. What does Peter tell Ananias? _____

30. How do *you* recognize Satan's lies? _____

31. How do you counterattack (return attack) the devil and his army of demons?

32. What does it mean to resist the devil and how do *you* personally resist evil?

33. How was Peter being a stumbling block to Jesus (Matthew 16:21-22)? _____

34. How has someone been a stumbling block to you? _____

35. Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. What tactic of Satan is the apostle Paul warning against?

36. Read Matthew 18:33-35. How deeply are we supposed to forgive others?

37. According to Mark 4:15, when the gospel is preached and those who are lost hear it, what

can Satan do? _____

Personal Application: War Zone

38. (1. 1 Chronicles 21:1 _____

(2. 2 Corinthians 11:13 _____

(3. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 _____

(4. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 _____

39. How does understanding some of the enemy's ways and tactics prepare *you* for battle?

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Four) Wisdom, Courage and Strength in Warfare

40. When a person has wisdom, what three other characteristics will he or she possess (v. 12)?

(1. _____ (2. _____ (3. _____

41. To _____ the LORD is to _____ evil (v. 13).

42. If Jesus had compromised on Kingdom principles, what kind of disciples would He have attracted? _____

43. What are some ways that you can witness and befriend sinners without condoning or giving the impression that you approve of their evil behavior? _____

44. What kinds of behavior does God hate (v. 13b)? _____

45. What are four other characteristics of wisdom and of a wise leader (v. 14)?

(1. Counsel and (2. _____ (3. Understanding and (4. _____

46. Does God command leaders to be strong and courageous? Yes No (Circle One)

47. What is the reason God gives for being strong and courageous? _____

48. Why does God say "do not fear"? _____

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Yet what does Paul say? _____

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Ephesians 6:10-18 is one of the most popular passages on spiritual warfare. Read and meditate on these verses. Also Hebrews 11:32-38.

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Next: Lesson 14: The Tender Heart of a Leader

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